(c) Yes, Sir, However, we are also working to develop international civil nuclear cooperation to bring in additionalities to nuclear electricity generation programme.

Self-reliance in the field of Atomic Energy

1789. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of fuel for atomic plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is having any plan to become self-reliant in the field of Atomic Energy to ensure the atomic autonomy; and

(d) if so, by when the country is likely to become self-reliant in the field of atomic fuel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) There is a mismatch at present between supply and demand of fuel for the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors.

(b) Improved operation of Nuclear power reactors, reduction in gestation period of reactors under constructions and unanticipated delays in opening of new uranium mines has created a gap in supply and demand at present.

(c) Yes, Sir. Technologically we are already self-reliant.

(d) Augmentation of uranium supply for the reactors in operation and future first stage reactors is receiving the attention of the Government at the highest level. Resulting out of these efforts the situation will progressively improve in the Eleventh Plan. The installed nuclear power capacity will be enhanced progressively.

Coal blocks allocated for new power plants

†1790. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocs allocated in October, 2006-07 for setting up coal-based new power plants in the private sector;

(b) the volume of coal reserves in the Chhattisgarh State in the country; and

(c) the time-frame within which power-plants are to be set up by the companies which had been allocated coal blocks in Chhattisgarh and other State (Jharkhand)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) 11 coal blocks with reserves of about 2238.18 million tonnes have been allocated since October, 2006 for setting up of new power projects in the private sector.

(b) The volume of coal reserves as on 01.01.2007 in the State of Chhattisgarh is about 41450 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.